

Message Text

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13

ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SE UN PFOR UK

SUBJ: SEYCHELLES ELECTIONS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM UK PERM REP, TO CHAIRMAN
OF COMITE OF 24, REGARDING SEYCHELLES ELELCTION RESULTS:

A/AC.109/448

QUESTION OF THE SEYCHELLES

LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1974 FROM THE PERM REP OF THE UK OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UN, ADDRESSED TO
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INQUIRY, I AM FORWARDING TO YOU FOR
YOUR INFORMATION A NOTE SETTING OUT THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT
ELELCTIONS IN THE SEYCHELLES AND THE MAIN DEVELOPMENTS
THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SUBSEQUENTLY.

2. THE ELECTIONS WERE HELD ON 25 APRIL 1972. PRELIMINARY RESULTS,
WITH 1970 FIGURES IN PARENTHESIS ARE:

SEATS	VOTES	PERCENTAGE OF
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VOTES

SDP 13(10)	21,892 (18,972)	52.4 (52.8)
SPUP 2(5)	19,920 (15,834)	47.6 (44.1)
41,823 (84 PER CENT OF VOTERS)		

THESE FIGURES EXCLUDE THE PARTI SEYCHELLOIS.

3. THERE WERE PRESS REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATIONS AFTER THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED. MR. MANCHAM, WHO WAS REAPPOINTED AS CHIEF MINISTER, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SDP HOPED TO WORK "WITH A RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY", AND TO HAVE ADDED THAT HE INTENDED TO CONSULT HIS COLLEAGUES AND THE BRITISH GOVT ON A DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

4. ON 30 APRIL, RADIO SEYCHELLES BROADCAST THE TEXT OF A JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY MR. MANCHAM AND MR. RENE, THE OPPOSITION LEADER. THIS SAID: "THE CHIEF MINISTER, MR. JAMES R. MANCHAM, AND THE LEADER OF SPUP, MR. FRANCE A. RENE, TODAY HAD AN HOUR-LONG EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT THE CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE IN THE SECRETARIAT. THIS WAS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TWO PARTY LEADERS FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS. AFTERWARDS THEY BOTH DECLARED THAT THEY HAD TALKED FRANKLY AND IN A CORDIAL WAY. THE LEADERS HAVE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN SHORTLY."

5. I UNDERSTAND THAT MR. RENE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH MR. MANCHAM AND HELP UNIFY THE COUNTRY.

6. BETWEEN 6 AND 9 MAY MR. MANCHAM HAD DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MISS JOAN LESTOR, AND WITH OFFICIALS. THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE AFTER THE DISCUSSIONS HAD ENDED:

"MR. J.R. MANCHAM, THE CHIEF MINISTER OF THE SEYCHELLES, AND A PARTY OF HIS MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, HAVE BEEN IN LONDON THIS WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MISS JOAN LESTOR, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE. THIS FOLLOWED THE VICTORY OF MR. MANCHAM'S PARTY, SDP, AT THE GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD IN

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THE SEYCHELLES ON 25 APRIL. BOTH PARTIES AT THESE ELECTIONS CAMPAIGNED FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR THE SEYCHELLES, AND THE PURPOSE OF MR. MANCHAM'S VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS TOWARDS THIS.

"AT PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH MISS LESTOR ON 6 MAY, AND THEN ON 9 MAY, IT WAS AGREED THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN LONDON IN THE AUTUMN OF THIS YEAR. BOTH THE

GOVERNING PARTY OF THE SEYCHELLES AND THE OPPOSITION WOULD
BE INVITED TO ATTEND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE USUAL
PRACTICE.

"IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE, HER
MAJESTY'S GOVT WOULD PROPOSE TO REACH DECISIONS ON CONSTITU-
TITNAL ADVANCE AND, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENT,
ON FINAL PROGRESS TO INDEPENDENCE.Z

7. MAY I ADD THAT MY GOVT'S OWN POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED.
WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT IF A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF
THE SEYCHELLES DESIRED INDPENDENCE, WE WOULD NOT STAND IN
THEIR WAY. AS YOU ARE AWARE, BOTH THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES
IN THE SEYCHELLES FOUGHT THE ELECTION ON AN INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMME.
(SIGNED) IVOR RICHARD
SCALI

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